

3-25-1825

# Letter to Benjamin Dodd March 25 1825

Moses Greenleaf

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Williamstown 25<sup>th</sup> March 1825Mr Benj<sup>d</sup> Dodd

Dear Sir.

Yours of 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> March came to

hand this evening, & as I expect to be too much engaged to write again before next mail, I just give you a hasty answer at this time, intending to answer more fully the mail after -

From your account of the sainfoin I should think it not worth while to harvest much of it. If however you should find a convenient opportunity to send a few <sup>or parts</sup> quarts of it, I will make the experiment, which I can do as well, ~~perhaps~~ <sup>with that</sup> as with a larger quantity & safer - I shall be glad to have you send the plough as early as you can - (care of Barker & Crosby Banger) -

As to slate, The ill success of your inquiries among the workmen is in my mind rather a favorable symptom - but still it is all uncertain - I can not get out any solid blocks. tried it but fall with powder but it splits as it comes out - All I have seen above ground looks as if it would split as it comes out of the quarry - - I were, whether it is not best to leave it as it is, till I have determined what to do with the Township? - I will however send you a sample, split, the first opportunity to Banger the snow is now two feet deep in the woods & very solid - toward Banger the roads are broken up - there will be no transporting from this to Banger till May -

I think you do right in determining to bring the business to some close or other with the heirs as soon as possible. My last letter (12<sup>th</sup> inst) will explain my views as to a division, & from your views I feel farther confirmed in the opinion that my advice to you there is the best course, even if only your father will adopt it -

I do not think you would get more than 25 cts per acre for the whole Township at 6 years credit, at the present time - will give my reasons next week, when you will better judge - ~~Yours~~

I will attend to all your queries if possible next week. -

I feel an increasing interest that the concern among you should be settled as early & as much to your advantage & that of all concerned as possible, & shall take the liberty to act for you here as I should wish you to act for me in an exchange of situations, not meaning however to commit you for any <sup>farther thing</sup> avoidable until you can get full power from the rest, or come to some other conclusion -

would it not be well to take up the consideration of my private account with the estate - you as administrator are competent to settle that. Look at my letter to you of 31<sup>st</sup> May last, with those to your uncle of 14<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1822 & from that time to Jan'y 1824 - & make up your mind upon the subject & let me know -

This hasty letter is only a text, I shall enlarge upon each of the



subjects as I have leisure as fast as possible - At present we have a sick friend in the house, & other pressing circumstances which must excuse haste -

Your friend W. Greenleaf.

Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> Having a few moments leisure to day, I improve it to answer a part of your queries - viz

1<sup>st</sup> The persons who have obtained deeds - & number of acres - ?  
 (now Luke Perry settler)  
 Jonathan Parsons - 200 - (I believe a few acres more but have not the copy)  
 Robert Kimball - 100 - now owned by Mark Pitman  
 Peter Perham - 100 - ~~last part~~  
 Rev. John Sawyer - 100  
 Thompson & Cross - 127 - (agreed to exchange a part of it)  
 E. Jenkins & E. P. Greenleaf - 300 - something to say about this hereafter, perhaps  
 Benj<sup>n</sup> Bunker - 100 - (agreed to exchange a part of it)  
 Eben Greenleaf - 120 - now owned by Eben Gilman  
 John Croninetti - 100 - now owned by A. W. Bump & A. Cross  
 John Coombs - 200 - now A. Miller & B. Miller  
 Stephen Crosby - 50  
 Total 1494 acres -

The above all paid for as you will find from time to time, except P. Perham & Thompson & Cross, which are partly paid.

2<sup>nd</sup> - The persons who hold under contracts - & in expectation of deeds &c. ?

B. Brakfield - 67  
 J. Thorne - 50  
 J. Palmer - 50  
 E. Greenleaf - 127  
 P. Merrill - 50  
 M. G. Pitman - 100  
 E. Gilman - 100  
 J. Stanniford - 50  
 W. Hatch - 100  
 694 acres

The above, part of them are paid for as per amt 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. 1826, the rest partly paid in labor on road, &c. &c. - & I shall amount for the whole - except perhaps W. Hatch & the others who have deeds last year -

Thomas Tyler - 100  
 Moses Head - 50  
 Nath<sup>l</sup> Head - 50  
 Benj<sup>n</sup> Moon - 50  
 Wm Ladd - 50  
 Nath<sup>l</sup> Shaw - 100  
 J. Perry - 100  
 Wiggins Merrill - 100  
 Benj<sup>n</sup> Springer - 100  
 Wm Bunker - 50  
 750

These are not paid for, except possibly a small part of some of them, but several of them have agreed to pay a part on the road the same next - <sup>some of them</sup> expect their deeds this year - & some few possibly may never -

Besides the above there are a few lots having improvements on them which have been left on my hands for bad debts - these I shall have to agree with you about, in order to save my debts - perhaps they may take 5 to 600 acres - (you will see that there are continual changes among the settlers)

3<sup>rd</sup> - "What the probable number of acres undisposed of" ?

The township, was surveyed by Holland as  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles from east to west. other surveys make it but  $6\frac{1}{4}$  - Different surveys make from 4 miles & 66 rods to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles from north to south - In the present state of the case I should think it safe to estimate it at  $6\frac{1}{4}$  by  $7\frac{1}{4}$  miles square, & not safe to warrant it any higher, perhaps it would not be best to warrant it so high - (a mile or more on the north side is burnt land & good for little)



Then say -  $6\frac{1}{4}$  by  $7\frac{1}{4}$  <sup>miles</sup> ~~sq miles~~ =  $45\frac{3}{25}$  sq miles or - 28,999 acres

Deduct - land <del>applied</del> used	148	
for roads		1280
reserved for public use		
Sold & decided ---	1497	
" under contract -	<u>1444</u>	4369
total undisposed of ---		<u>24,630</u> acres
reserve for mill lot & pond say		300
		<u>24,330</u> more or less

To answer to your 4<sup>th</sup> query, I must write a whole letter, in order that you may judge not simply from my <sup>mere</sup> opinion, but, more satisfactorily, from the facts & circumstances which affect the price of land at present in large tracts - & I have been thinking, since I began this, of a suggestion for disposing of the whole - but have now to ~~attend to~~ <sup>attend to</sup> have no more time for this week's mail, & must therefore postpone the rest till next week -

Yours friend & ant - H. E. -

I have written in haste, from recollection, not having time to overhaul papers - may therefore have made some mistakes, but I think not -

P.P.S. I have surveyed the mill lot & bog - find there is, but about one third as much land for the pond as I expected - & of course the water for the mill will be proportionally less - am sorry - but, it can not be helped -

P.S. (inserted in letter 3<sup>rd</sup> March) " Among the lots under contract I forgot to note to Liske Perry, not surveyed, but supposed to be about 60 acres - see my letter 25 to 28<sup>th</sup> March,



To J. B. Stoddard

25 to 28 March 1825

Dear Sir

Receipt of land sold in the